

NCPC File #: 7769

Playground adjacent to the Creative Minds International Public Charter School

Washington, DC

Armed Forces Retirement Home

Preliminary and Final

Commission meeting date: April 7, 2016

NCPC review authority: Approval – Federal project in the District of Columbia

Applicant request: Approval of preliminary and final site plans

Delegated / consent / open / executive session: Delegated

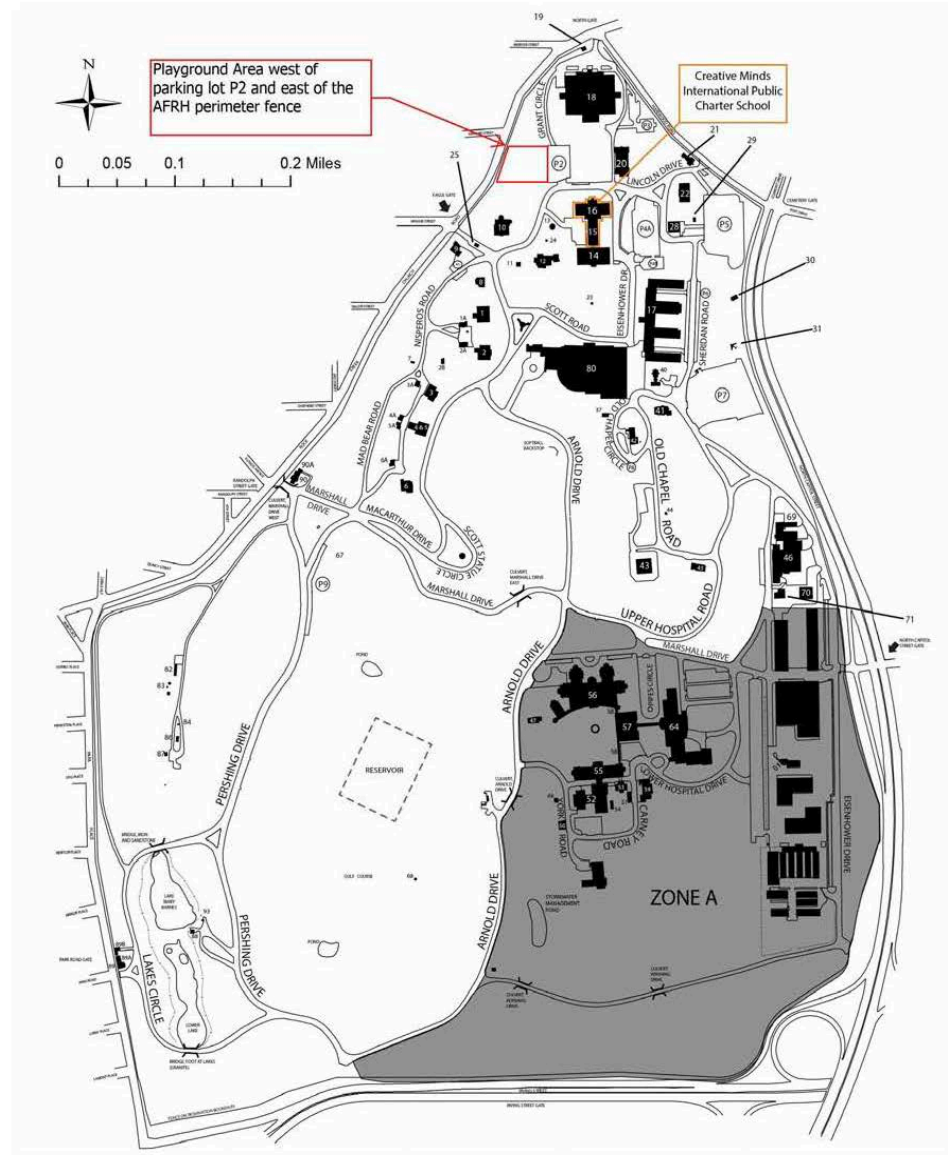
NCPC Review Officer: J. Hirsch

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Project summary:

On behalf of the Creative Minds International Public Charter School (located in a portion of the Sherman Building), AFRH has submitted preliminary and final site plans for a playground adjacent to the Sherman Building on the AFRH campus. The nature-based playground will be located adjacent to parking lot P2 in the northwest section of the campus in the North-Northeast sub-zone of the 2008 AFRH Master Plan. Currently the site is an open space, mostly covered in grass and includes approximately 33 trees. The majority of the trees will remain in place. A few trees appear to be in poor health and will be evaluated by an arborist prior to removal. Any trees removed will be replaced on a one-to-one basis. The playground has been designed to minimize impacts on the existing landscape and the playground will use natural materials such as logs, boulders, sand, water, and plants to create spaces for children to climb, contemplate, and construct. Within the playground, there will be a garden where children will learn where their food comes from as they plant, harvest, and sample edible crops.

To enclose the space, rather than fences, there will be planted buffers and screens. These planning beds will keep the children safe and provide screening of the playground from the surrounding buildings including Lincoln Cottage. Along the edge between the parking lot and the playspace, there will be a meadow planted with native grasses and perennials, which will attract beneficial insects and provide a beautiful focal point. Along the boundary between the Administration Building and the playground, there will be a hedge which will also help to screen views from Lincoln Cottage. The hedge will include a variety of native shrubs, which will provide habitat for birds and four seasons of color, fragrance, and beauty. In the southeast area of the site, near the existing Linden tree, it is not possible to plant shrubs in the critical root zone of the tree. Therefore, vertical wood panels will screen the playground and they will double as storage cabinets that can be accessed from the north.

Updated 2013
EHT Traceries

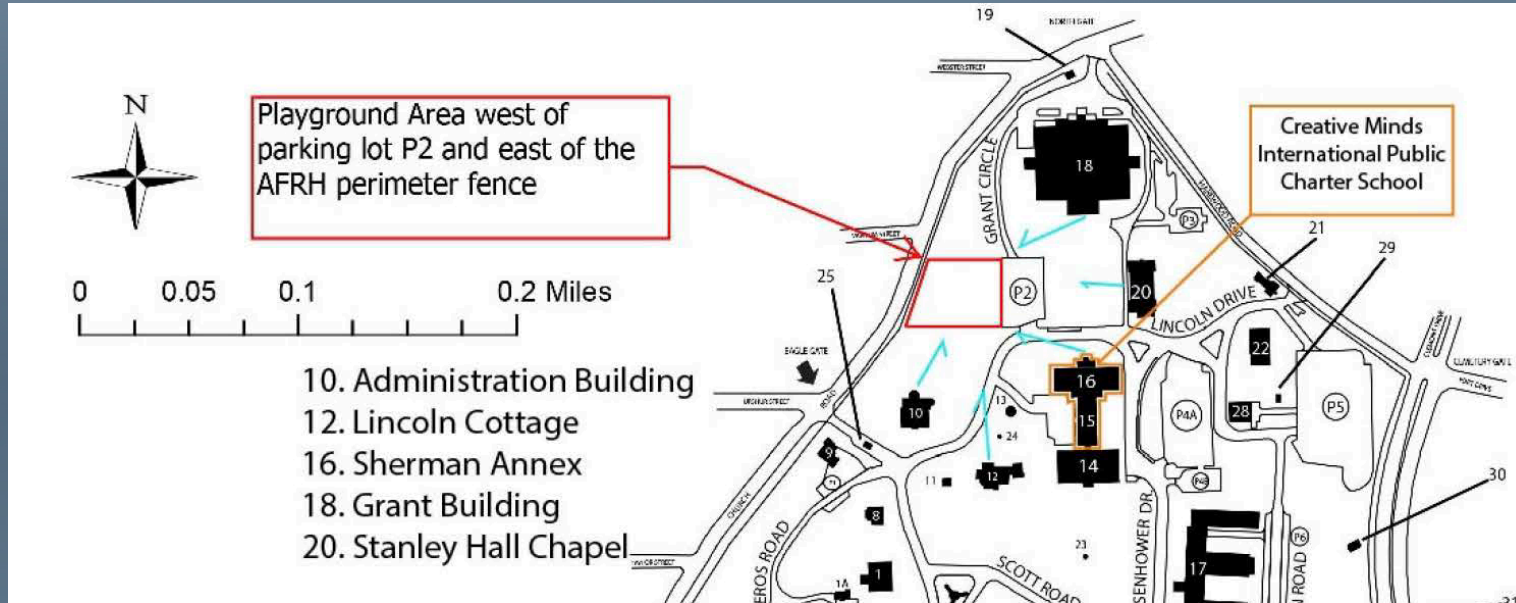




Image 1: View of the east edge of the playground space, looking north. Some of the newly planted Crape Myrtles are dying and will be removed to make way for the Bucolic Meadow Garden.



Image 2: View of playground space from the southeast corner, looking northwest.



Image 3: Northeast corner of the playground space, looking south. This is the proposed location of the Bucolic Meadow Garden. The garden will be designed to function in lieu of a fence, preventing children from crossing in to the parking lot.



Image 4: Northeast corner of the playground space, looking southwest towards the proposed lawn area.



Image 5: View of the southwest corner of the playground space, looking south. Both the White Pines and the Perimeter Fence will be preserved in place.





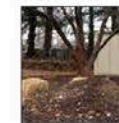
Main Entry with arbor options



Front entry bench options



Fallen log climbing examples



Dirt hills example



Tree bench options



Examples of log scramble, slide and tunnel



Front entry swinging bench options



Compacted stone dust path



Example of meadow plantings



Wood deck outdoor stage examples



Bench options for stage area



Example of musical stations



Garden raised beds



Log seating in meditation circle and classroom



Example of storage unit with white board



Examples of hammock and attachment options



Table options for picnic area and art area



Helix Footer
to anchor items with minimal disturbance to the soil



Gourd tunnel



Example of sensory path



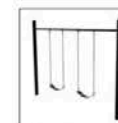
Fairy Garden



Storage unit with green roof



Vintage sink options



Sling swings



Sensory swing



Example of log animal



Play Houses options



Sand play area



Log table



Log channel



Loose Parts Building Area; example of tree cookies and logs



Mixed planting privacy hedge

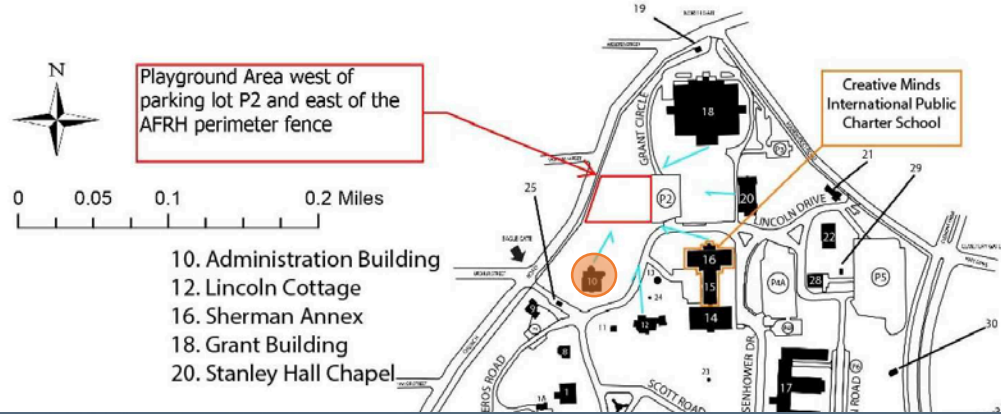


Image 6: View from Administration Building, looking north towards the playground space, highlighted in yellow.



Figure 2: Rendering of the view of the playground space from the back of the Administration Building.
(Rendering by Early Space, 2015)

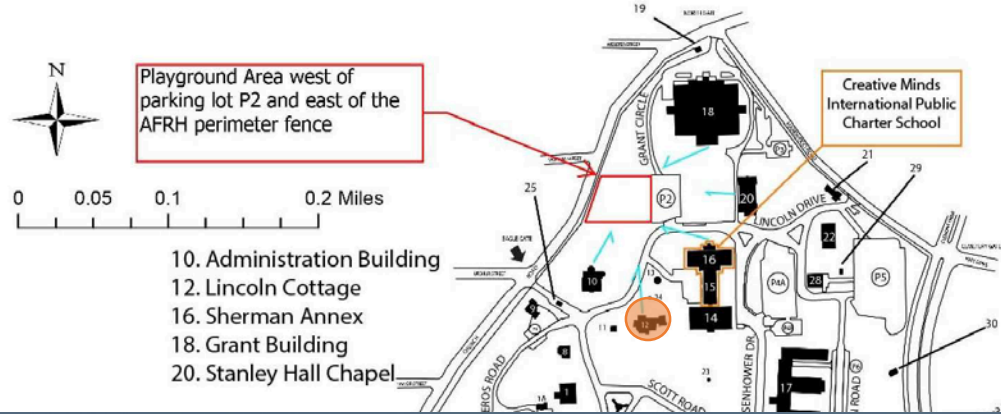


Image 7: View from Lincoln Cottage looking north towards the playground space.



Image 8: View, zoomed in, of the playground space from Lincoln Cottage. (Figure by Early Space 2015)

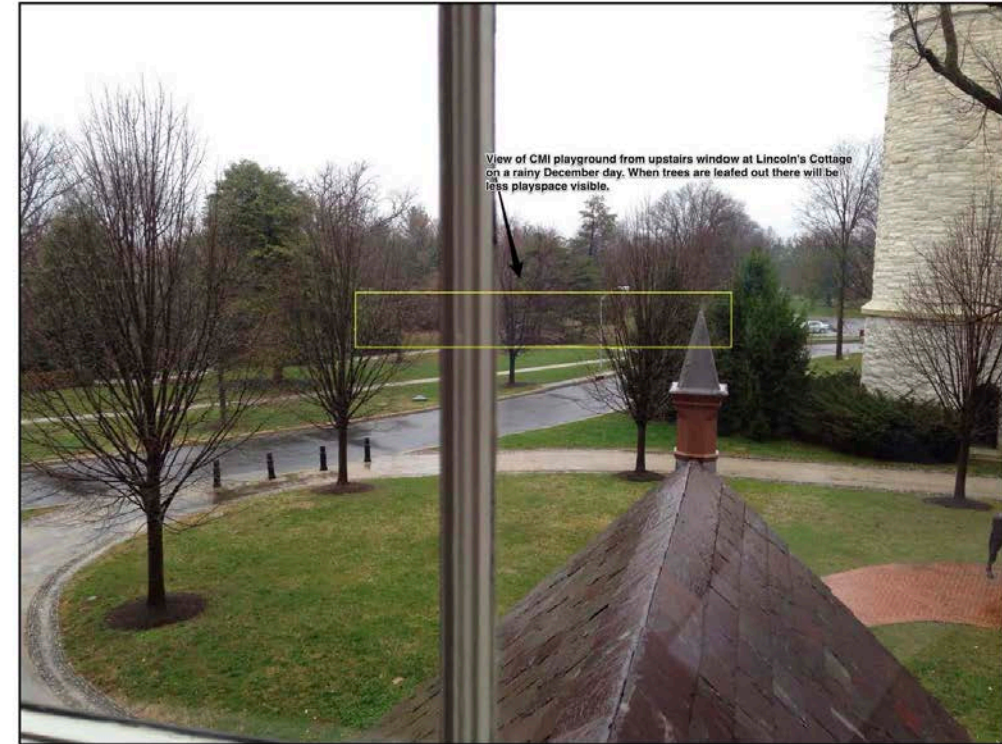
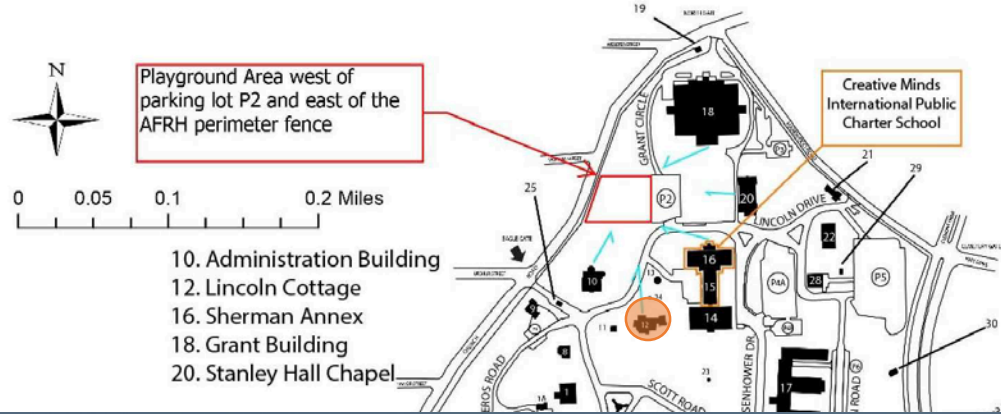


Image 10: View of the playground space, highlighted in yellow, from the second floor of Lincoln Cottage, looking north. (Figure by Early Space, 2015)

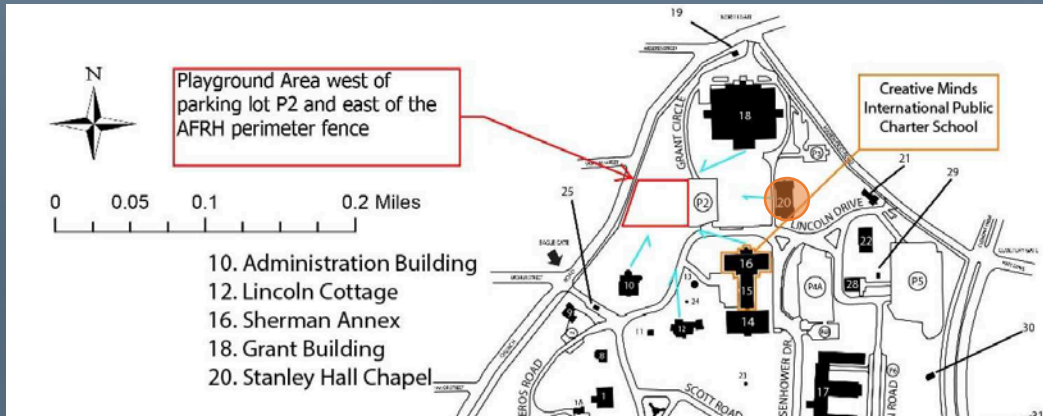


Image 11: View of the playground space, highlighted in yellow, from Stanley Hall Chapel, looking west. As shown in the photograph, the playground will mostly be blocked by the parking lot.

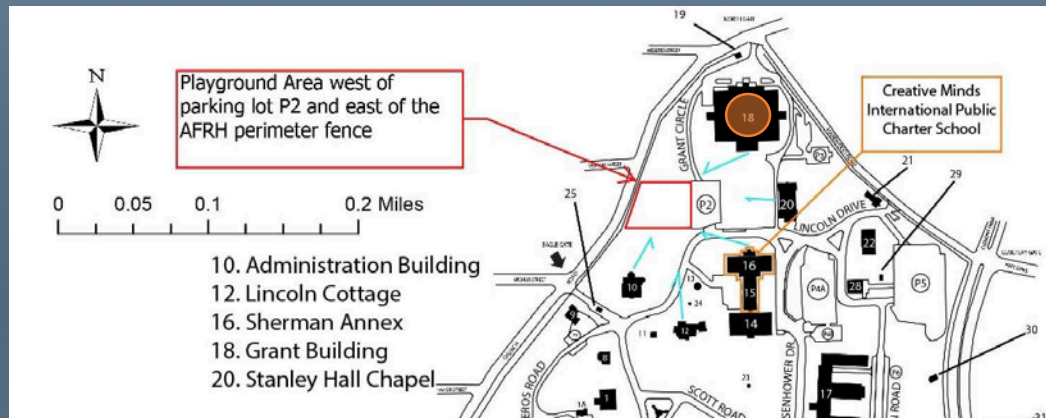


Image 12: View of the playground space, highlighted in yellow, from the Grant Building, looking southwest.